

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01675 011644Z

62

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /142 W

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R 011413Z JUG 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 881

INFO AMEMBASSY KAIRO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS

SUBJ: ALGERIAN POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA

REF: ALGIERS 1568 NOTAL

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF JULY 31,
DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS MOHAMED ABERKANE REITERATED ALGERIA'S
POSITION ON SAHARA IN SAME TERMS HE HAD USED JULY
18 (REFTEL). ABERKANE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN HIS
VIEW BEST OUTCOME TO PROBLEM WOULD BE REFERENDUM
UNDER UN AUSPICES LEADING TO SAHARAN INDEPENDENCE,
GUARANTEED AND SUPPORTED ECONOMICALLY BY THE FOUR CONCERNED
PARTIES (SPAIN INCLUDED). HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO
SAHARANS BEING GIVEN OPTION TO MERGE WITH MOROCCO
BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WOULD CHOOSE
FULL INDEPENDENCE IN ANY FAIRLY CONDUCTED
REFERENDUM. WITHOUT HEAT, HE REPEATED BELIEF
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PAGE 02 ALGIER 01675 011644Z

THAT HASSAN'S CAMPAIGN WAS MOTIVATED MORE BY INTERNAL
POLITICAL CONCERNS THAN TRUE TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS
AND WOULD NOT BE PUSHED TO POINT OF CONFRONTATION.

2. COMMENT: (A) IMPLICIT IN ABERKANE'S ATTITUDE APPEARED
TO BE BELIEF THAT IF NECESSARY ALGERIANS COULD
PERSUADE ARAB NATIONS TO FAVOR UN RATHER THAN MOROCCAN
APPROACH AND THAT FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA, AS PRESIDENT
OF 29TH UNGA, WOULD BE IN POSITION TO ACCELERATE
APPLICATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS ON SUBJECT.
(B) WE CONTINUE TO BE PERPLEXED AT
MOROCCAN REPORTS OF BOUMEDIENE'S ALLEGED ACQUIESCENCE
IN THEIR SAHARAN CLAIM. ABERKANE, WHO HOLDS A KEY
POSITION IN CONDUCT OF ALGERIAN-SPANISH RELATIONS,
SHOWED NO HESITANCY IN STATING HIS GOVERNMENT'S
POSITION.
SIMPSON

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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